



Colorado Workforce  
Development Council

# MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Every Colorado business has access to a  
skilled workforce and every Coloradan has  
access to meaningful employment, resulting  
in statewide economic vitality.





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This is an interactive PDF. Click on any name in the table of contents to go to that person's contact information.

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## CWDC STAFF

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COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF  
LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

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# Governor John Hickenlooper



**Governor**

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Gov. John Hickenlooper's ambition for Colorado is even bigger than his name. A geologist-turned brewpub pioneer who had never run for political office (not even student council) before running for Denver Mayor in 2003, John was elected Governor of Colorado on Nov. 2, 2010. His boundless energy, enthusiasm and creativity are generating tremendous optimism and confidence in Colorado's future. His ambition for Colorado is - that we all join together as One Colorado to solve the challenges faces our state. Because this is Our Colorado.

# Toya Speckman



**Broomfield Region/Aerospace**

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Toya Speckman is Chair of the CWDC. She has been with Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp. for twelve years and is located in Broomfield, CO. She is the Sr. Human Resources Manager of Talent Acquisition. She also serves as a Business Partner and the Diversity & Inclusion Officer. Prior to coming to Ball, Toya was Director of Workforce Boulder County.



# Jeff Ackermann



## Colorado Energy Office

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Jeff Ackermann has had a long career in state government and in the energy sector. He became the Director of the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) in April 2013 where he oversees the CEO staff, and the organization’s many initiatives and programs. Ackermann’s extensive energy experience aids him as he works collaboratively with other state agencies and external stakeholders to design and implement an “all-of-the-above” statewide energy platform. Prior to this, he served as a section chief with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.

# Joe Barela



## Rocky Mountain Workforce Development Association

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Joe Barela has been in the public workforce development industry for over 20 years. He is currently the Regional Workforce Director for Arapahoe and Douglas Counties, the Manager of Arapahoe/Douglas Works! and represents the the Rocky Mountain Workforce Development Association on the Council. Mr. Barela is viewed as a local, regional and national authority on human capital development and its impact on economic vitality.

## Reggie Bicha



### Colorado Department of Human Services

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**R:** Julie Kerksick

In January 2011, Governor John Hickenlooper appointed Reggie Bicha (pronounced Beak-a) Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Human Services. Director Bicha served most recently as Secretary of the Department of Children and Families for the state of Wisconsin. Mr. Bicha brings a strong focus on outcomes, results, accountability, transparency and a belief in vital local partnerships with him to Colorado.

## Laurie Brown



### Arapahoe Douglas Region/ Transportation

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Laurie Brown started in transportation 29 years ago in the less than truck load arena; then went on to handling full truckload shipments across the United States as well as globally. Fourteen years ago she and her business partner started one of the few women-owned logistics companies in the state. Laurie serves as a board member of both Arapahoe House and The Denver Transportation Club.

## Reeves Brown



### Colorado Department of Local Affairs

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**R:** Chantal Unfug

Reeves Brown was appointed as the Director of the Department of Local Affairs which is the primary interface between Colorado state and local governments in areas such as housing, infrastructure, capacity building and emergency management. For the past ten years, Reeves has been the Executive Director of CLUB 20, a non-profit political advocacy organization representing the interests of the 22-county Western Colorado region.

## Debra Capra



### Boulder Region/ Pharmaceutical Manufacturing

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Debra Capra is Director for Human Resources, EH&S, and IT for Corden Pharma Colorado, a pharmaceutical manufacturing company located in Boulder. Debra has over 25 years of experience in the human resources and development field, first with Public Service Company of Colorado before signing-on with Corden Pharma Colorado, then Roche Colorado Corporation, in 1997. A proud product of the North Denver community, Debra has a passion for advancing the interests of business, employees and community in all of her work responsibilities.

# Julie Charneskie



**Rural Resort Region/Tourism  
& Hospitality**

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Julie Charneskie is the Owner of 5 Diamond Lodging, Inc. in Summit County, Colorado. Since moving there in 2001, she has successfully built alliances with other businesses in order to create a greater economic impact on the community. Julie started out as an elementary school teacher after graduating from the University of Arizona, and she brings this team effort perspective to her small business.

# David Csintyan



**Pikes Peak Region/  
Educational Foundation**

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Dave is the co-founder and CEO of the newly formed See The Change USA Foundation, an educational and charitable non-profit organization committed to student advancement in Science & Engineering. Prior to his involvement with See The Change USA, Dave spent ten years at the Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce from 2002 – 2012 where he performed in a variety of leadership capacities culminating in his selection as President & CEO for his final five years in the organization. Dave serves as Past-Chair of the CWDC.

# Annie Davies



**Denver Region/Community  
Organization - Veterans**

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Annie Davies is the Director of Communications & Development at Rocky Mountain Human Services, overseeing internal and external communications, media relations, events, and individual and corporate giving. She joined the organization in 2011 to lead the nonprofit's rebranding and fundraising efforts. Annie serves on the Community Affairs Committee of the Colorado Springs Regional Business Alliance's Military Affairs Committee and the Marketing Committee for the Colorado Planned Giving Roundtable.

# Josh Davies



**Denver Region/Youth**

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Josh Davies is CEO of the Center for Work Ethic Development, an organization committed to restoring work ethic values in high schools, workforce centers, and the private sector. He is passionate about helping others make a difference in their lives, jobs, and community; and through his work as a speaker, trainer, and mentor he has produced results around the country. Training Magazine recently named him as one of the top 10 trainers under 40 in America and the Denver Business Journal tapped him as one of Denver's 40 Under 40.

## Representative Brian DelGrosso



**State Representative**

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Brian DelGrosso (District 51) was recently appointed as Minority Leader of the Colorado House of Representatives. He also serves on the Business, Labor, Economic, & Workforce Development Committee, the Appropriations Committee, the Finance Committee and the Legislative Council. Representative DelGrosso is a small business owner in Loveland, Colorado. A native of Wyoming, DelGrosso proudly served in the Wyoming Air National Guard for six years.

## Clay Drake



**Weld Region/  
Construction - Development**

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Clay Drake is the Director of Business Development for Great Western Development Company in Windsor. He is responsible for growing a portfolio of rail, energy and real estate assets located in northern Colorado. Drake was formerly a commercial lender for several community banks in the Windsor area. In addition, he has previous experience as a marketing manager for a San Antonio company and a partner in a Windsor-based agricultural enterprise.

## Representative Crisanta Duran



State Representative

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Representative Crisanta Duran (District 5) is a proud native of Colorado. Her family has owned a ranch just West of Trinidad going back six generations. Rep. Duran is currently a member of the Joint Budget Committee which is charged with balancing Colorado's budget every year. Next session, she will serve as Chair of the Appropriations Committee. Rep. Duran was recently recognized in a Denver Post article titled, "Women Who Broke Political Barriers."

## Maria Feekes



Pikes Peak Region/Youth

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Maria is a founder of After School University, a tutoring and enrichment program where key science and engineering disciplines, including physics and computer programming, are introduced from an early age. Since its start in October 2010, After School University has helped over 400 students from kindergarten to senior level to thrive and excel beyond expectations. Prior to founding After School University, Maria worked as a project manager and marketing manager of Genesys Conferencing.

## Aaron Fernandes



**Southwest Region/Healthcare**

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Aaron Fernandes is the Founder and CEO of Open Sky Wilderness Therapy. He holds a BA in psychology from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. Aaron has vast leadership experience in the fields of outdoor education and wilderness therapy. Aaron has served as President of the Growth Company Initiative CEO Network.

## Peggy Gair



**Upper Arkansas Region/  
Tourism**

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Peggy Gair is the Human Resource/Public Relations Manager for the Royal Gorge Bridge & Park in Canon City and has been with the park for the past 13 years. She has served on the Upper Arkansas Workforce Board since 2002, and is presently the Chair. She also serves as Chair of the Colorado Rural Workforce Consortium representing 11 rural workforce regions (54 counties) of Colorado. Locally, Peggy is active on the Fremont Campus Pueblo Community College Capital Steering Committee and the Fremont Campus Advisory Committee.



## Lt. Governor Joe Garcia



### Colorado Department of Higher Education

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**R:** Inta Morris

Before he was elected Lieutenant Governor, Joe was president of Colorado State University - Pueblo. During his four-year tenure at the University, Joe helped the university overcome financial difficulties, stagnant enrollment and a mediocre reputation through aggressive marketing and non-traditional solutions; he also served as co-chair of the Governor's P-20 Education Task Force.

## Ellen Golombek



### Colorado Department of Labor & Employment

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Ellen Golombek brings more than 18 years of leadership and management to the Colorado Department of Labor & Employment (CDLE). In her career, she has worked with state and national organizations to develop public policy through grassroots, legislative and electoral networks. As Executive Director, Ellen oversees the Division of Labor, Division of Workers' Compensation, Division of Oil & Public Safety, Division of Unemployment Insurance and Division of Employment & Training.

## Raymond Gonzales



**Adams Region/  
County Government**

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Raymond H. Gonzales is the Director of the Neighborhood Services Department for Adams County. Prior to this, he held the position of Vice President of Business Development for SOS Employment Group. He previously served as President and CEO of Brighton Economic Development Corporation, responsible for attracting new industry, business and investments to the City of Brighton. Raymond has also served as Deputy Cabinet Secretary of Labor under New Mexico's Governor, Bill Richardson.

## Karla Grazier



**Pikes Peak Region/  
Community  
Organization - Disabilities**

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Karla Grazier is the CEO and President of Discover Goodwill of Southern and Western Colorado, a social enterprise and human service organization that works with the unemployed, seniors and all types of people with disabilities. It is ranked as one of the top ten Goodwills, of 160 in the country, based on number of people served. Karla's previous experience was in banking and as an entrepreneur guiding one start-up to an IPO, and growing two other companies to be eventually acquired.

# Robert Hammond



## Colorado Department of Education

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**R:** Margaret Kirkpatrick

On May 11, 2011 the Colorado State Board of Education appointed Robert Hammond as Commissioner of Education, effective June 1st, 2011. Prior to his appointment, Hammond served as the department's commissioner as well as deputy commissioner of administration and operations. Hammond draws on a 23 year career in K-12 education leadership.

# Jay Hardy



## Larimer Region/ Construction - Development

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As Vice President, General Manager of Centerra & North Park, Jay Hardy is charged with the general management of the largest master planned community in Northern Colorado as well as the newly branded North Park community in Broomfield, CO. Jay is responsible for leading the land use planning and infrastructure completion, feasibility analysis and project proformas, horizontal development, entitlements, and community branding and marketing. Jay joined McWhinney after 11 years in the public and non-profit sectors.

## Dennis Hisey



**El Paso County Commissioner**

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Dennis Hisey is the Commissioner of District 4 in El Paso County and Chair of the Board of County Commissioners. His background includes over 20 years in the transportation industry, from driving to general manager to owner of a moving and storage company. Most recently, prior to public service, Dennis was the owner of a home repair and remodel business.

## Ryan Keiffer

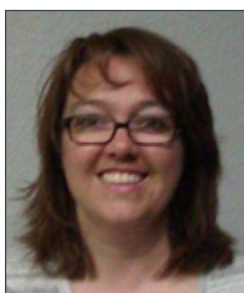


**Larimer Region/  
Creative Industries**

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Ryan Keiffer is the co-founder, co-owner and CEO of A-Train Marketing Communications, a full service marketing, branding, design, web, and publicity agency headquartered in Fort Collins. Since its inception in 1998, Ryan has helped to develop and oversee the company's steady growth, winning several awards including Small Business of the Year by the Fort Collins Coloradoan. From 2009-2011 Ryan served as Executive Director of Beet Street, a Fort Collins arts and culture initiative, where he led the re-development and the organization's strategic plan.

## Kristie LaRose



Tri-County Region/  
Manufacturing

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Kristie L. LaRose joined Lifeloc as its accountant and office manager in August, 2004. Ms. LaRose has extensive experience in accounting and administrative positions with other companies, and holds a BS degree in Business Administration from Worcester State College, and was named as Vice President, Finance on July 1, 2009. Prior to 2004, Ms. LaRose was employed by University of Advancing Technology as the Senior Accountant and has held various positions in an accounting and administrative function at B. J.'s Wholesale Club's corporate office.

## Jeannie Larsen



Southeast Region/Healthcare

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Jeannie Larsen is Human Resource Specialist for Southeast Behavioral Health Group, based in La Junta. She has been working in the field for 16 years. Jeannie has served as the Chair of the Southeast Workforce Investment Board since spring 2011 and has been a member for 9 years. She has been a member of the Colorado Rural Workforce Consortium Workforce Investment Board since fall 2010.

## Wy Livingston



**Tri-County Region/  
Entrepreneurship - Retail**

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Ms. Livingston is the President and CEO of Wystone's World Teas Holding, Inc. The tea enterprise consists of a 120 seat tea bar, café and retail establishment, a Wholesale division, a Product development division, and a Franchise division. Prior to beginning her adventure in tea, she was the Senior VP of Operations for Pulte Homes, the largest home builder in the country. While there, she managed as many as 800 employees, responsible for Mortgage Operations, Planning and Analysis, Quality Assurance, and Training departments.

## Ken Lund



**Colorado Office of Economic  
Development & International Trade**

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**R:** Karla Tartz

Ken Lund currently serves as the Executive Director for the Governor's Office of Economic Development and International Trade. In this capacity Ken oversees the State's initiatives and programs in business recruitment and retention, small business advocacy and assistance, business finance/business lending efforts, and supports the state's tourism marketing and outreach initiatives through the Colorado Tourism Office.

## Jeff Macco



### Denver Region

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Jeff Macco is a serial entrepreneur and the founder of SeedPaths, which focuses on increasing the number of quality software developers in Colorado. Jeff's investments and work as a co-founder include an Alaskan gold-mining company, Applt Ventures (mobile software development) and SeedPaths (software training and recruiting). Jeff's mission in life is to help other people succeed. This mission is typically carried out through the lens of business. Jeff goes out of his way to make a positive impact in the lives of others.

## Dean McCall

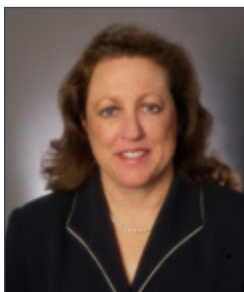


### Western Region/Healthcare

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Mr. McCall is the Program Director of the Acute Rehabilitation Unit and Joint Replacement Center, at Montrose Memorial Hospital. He is employed through Milestone Healthcare, under a management contract with Montrose Memorial Hospital. Prior to joining Milestone Healthcare, he served as the Chief Operating Officer / Associate Administrator for Alpine Resource Group.

## Nancy McCallin



### Colorado Community College System

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**R:** Scott Stump

Dr. Nancy J. McCallin is the President of the Colorado Community College System. As President, Dr. McCallin leads the state's largest system of higher education, which has career and academic programs in the 13 state community colleges and career and technical programs in more than 160 school districts and seven other postsecondary institutions.

## Sean McCarville



### Labor Representative

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Sean McCarville is a Senior Assistant Business Manager at Local Union #111 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers headquartered in Denver Colorado. IBEW #111 represents over 3,500 workers throughout the State of Colorado with a broad spectrum including Electric and Gas Utilities, Utility contracting, Rural Electric Associations, professional and service industries. Sean is a Journeyman Lineman by trade and a third generation native of Colorado.



## Don McClure



Denver Region/  
Energy - Oil & Gas

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Don McClure is Vice President, Government & Stakeholder Relations & Legal of EnCana Oil and Gas (USA) Inc., home to 861 employees and supporting contractors in Colorado and 2087 across the USA. Don has been in the oil and gas industry for more than 30 years. He is a licensed CPA and CMA and also has an MBA from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Don has held various leadership positions across the natural gas industry.

## Charles “Buzz” Moore



Mesa Region/  
Financial Services

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Charles P. “Buzz” Moore has been a resident of Grand Junction for 30 years, working in banking, mortgage and real estate. He is active in his community, currently serving on the Boards of Hilltop Community Resources and the Mesa County Workforce Center. He is past chair of the Colorado Real Estate Commission and the Colorado Rural Workforce Consortium. A graduate of CSU-Pueblo, Buzz is married (Karen) with 5 children and 7 grandchildren.

## James Neubecker



**Labor Representative**

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Jim is a lifelong union worker, an officer, and an activist in local and national union labor activities. He served in the US Air Force and began his career with Bell Aerospace. He joined the Cleveland Pipefitters Local Union and worked for Avery Engineering in management and supervision.

## Senator Linda Newell



**State Senator**

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Ms. Newell is a Colorado State Senator representing District 26. She made history for becoming the first Democrat to be elected in her largely Republican and independent district. Since taking office in 2009, Linda has been a tireless advocate for a strong business environment, job opportunities for Coloradans, promoting efficiencies in government, and responsible policies for children and families. She serves on the Health & Human Services Committee, the Joint Technology Committee, and the Legislative Council.

## Rick Raemisch



### Colorado Department of Corrections

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**R:** Carl Wotowis

Mr. Raemisch joined the Colorado Department of Corrections as the Executive Director in July 2013 after three decades of law enforcement experience as a deputy and elected sheriff, prosecutor, and Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. Prior to moving to Colorado, Mr. Raemisch served as Dean of the School of Human and Protective Services at Madison College in Madison, overseeing programs in Emergency Medical Services, Criminal Justice, Fire, Human Services and Early Childcare Education.

## Susan Rogers



### Arapahoe Douglas Region/ Human Resources - Consulting

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Susan Rogers is a Strategic Human Resources Consultant with over fifteen years experience in Talent Acquisition/Staffing, Change Management, Mergers and Acquisitions, Retention Strategies, Performance Management, Leading and Mentoring, Rewards and Recognition, Leadership Development, Organizational Planning and Development, and Executive Coaching.

## Jessie Ruiz



**Eastern Region/  
Agriculture - Retail**

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Jessie Ruiz has called Holyoke, Colorado his home for the past 13 years now. He graduated from Chase County High in Imperial, Nebraska and later attended Chadron State College. At this time, Mr. Ruiz serves as an After Market Recruitment Specialist for 21st Century Equipment, a John Deere dealership in Eastern Colorado.

## John Salazar



**Colorado Department  
of Agriculture**

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Governor John Hickenlooper appointed John Salazar as Commissioner of Agriculture in 2011. A sixth-generation farmer and rancher, Salazar served three terms representing Colorado's 3rd Congressional District and was a member of the House Agriculture Committee. Before his time in Congress, Salazar served in the Colorado General Assembly for two years. "...no one has been a more passionate champion for agriculture and rural communities than John Salazar."

## Kyle Sickman



**Adams Region/  
Financial Services**

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Kyle Sickman is an Assistant Vice President with FirstBank, where he has worked for four years managing lending, operations, and customer development for the North Metro market. He is very active in the community including involvement with Adams County Workforce, Commerce City's Quality Community Foundation, and HeadStart. Kyle holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration majoring in Finance from Butler University.

## Mark Spiecker



**Arapahoe Douglas Region/  
Bioscience**

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Mark Spiecker started with Sharklet Technologies, Inc as the Vice President of Operations and now serves as the company's Chief Executive Officer. He has over 15 years of experience in corporate restructurings, corporate development, mergers and acquisitions, business development, human resources consulting, operations management, investor relations and public relations. Mark is actively involved in the Colorado bioscience community as he is on the board the Colorado BioScience Association (CBSA) and also chairs the education committee of CBSA.

# Trish Sullivan



**Northwest Region/  
Tourism & Hospitality**

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Trish Sullivan is Vice President of Human Resources at Steamboat Ski & Resort, one of the largest ski mountains in North America. Trish currently serves on the board of directors for the Yampa Valley Housing Authority, Northwest Colorado Workforce Board, and Integrated Community.

# Paula Swenson



**Gunnison County  
Commissioner**

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Paula Swenson is a Colorado native, growing up in Granby, Colorado and moving to Gunnison in 1981 to attend Western State College (now Western State Colorado University). She has been a local business owner and operator since 1986. Her businesses range from flower shops to providing internet service along with her husband, Jason, to the local community. She was first elected as a County Commissioner in 2004 and is currently serving in her third term.

# Stephanie Van Cleve



Denver Region/Hospitality

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Stephanie Van Cleve is the deputy director of the Colorado Hotel & Lodging Association and has been with the organization since 2006. She is responsible for managing office operations, communications with the members, website maintenance, event planning, and much more. She is the staff liaison for the association's Education Committee and leads the all education and workforce development efforts. In January 2011 she was appointed by the Mayor of Denver to sit on the City's Workforce Investment Board as a representative of the hospitality industry.

# Grover Wallace



Pikes Peak Region/Mining

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Grover is currently employed with Anglo Gold Ashanti (Colorado) Corp. as the Manager of Human Resources. Grover has over 25 years in the Human Resource arena as well as Health and Safety with experience in Mining, Chemical Manufacturing, and Core Drilling. His experience in mining has been both underground and surface mining, specifically coal, trona and precious metals throughout Wyoming, Montana, Texas and Colorado. He has held roles in both union and non-union facilities and also has experience in international HR issues.

## Roni Wisdom



### South Central Region/ Economic Development

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Since 2004, Wisdom has served as the CFO of the San Luis Valley Development Resources Group/SLV Council Of Governments, regional organizations that serve six rural Colorado counties. While varied, her background has always included working with the small business community. Roni is chairperson of the South Central Workforce Investment Board and a member of the Colorado Rural Workforce Consortium Board. In May 2011, she was appointed to the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Council on Underserved Communities (CUC).

## Kathy Worthington



### Pueblo Region/Energy - Utility

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Kathy Worthington is an Xcel Energy area manager for community and local government affairs. She serves the seven counties and 14 communities in southern Colorado that Xcel Energy serves. In addition to the CWDC she serves on the Rural Workforce Consortium and is chair-elect of Action 22. As a long time employee of Xcel Energy, she has extensive knowledge of utilities, energy and marketing. She is a 3rd generation Coloradoan.



# Julie Zinn



Larimer Region/  
Renewable Energy

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Julie Zinn is Chief Operating Officer of Spirae, a company founded in 2002 by Dr. Sunil Cherian to develop systems-level solutions for the large-scale integration of renewable and distributed energy into electric power systems. Julie brings to the Center her extensive experience in adult education, as well as active participation in local and state workforce efforts, including her membership on the Larimer County Workforce Investment Board.

# Stephanie Steffens

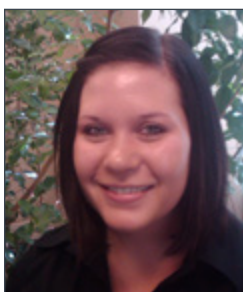


**Director, Colorado Workforce Development Council**

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Stephanie Steffens is Director of the Colorado Workforce Development Council, a dynamic partnership between workforce development, economic development, education, business and government. Prior to this she worked for the Colorado Office of Economic Development & International Trade as head of the state's Business Retention & Expansion Program. While there, Stephanie brought communities and business together to create and implement Colorado Companies to Watch to recognize and support growing companies creating jobs.

# Amy Hodson



**Council Liaison  
& Project Coordinator,  
Colorado Workforce Development Council**

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Amy grew up in Summit County, Colorado and has been working for the State of Colorado for over three years. She serves as the Council Liaison and Project Coordinator for the CWDC. Amy graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a BS in Business Administration and a BA in Spanish. She is currently pursuing her MS in International Business at University of Colorado Denver.

## Emily Templin-Lesh



**Assistant Director  
of Policy & Partnerships,  
Colorado Workforce  
Development Council**

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Emily Templin Lesh initially came to the Colorado Department of Labor & Employment as the Green Jobs Coordinator, which gave her the opportunity to work closely with the Governor's Energy Office. Prior to her work with CWDC and GEO, Emily worked for the National Conference of State Legislatures as an Environment, Energy, and Transportation Policy Specialist. Emily holds a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Washington.

## Rebecca Waldo



**Project Manager,  
Colorado Workforce  
Development Council**

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Rebecca Waldo joined the CWDC staff as Project Manager in November of 2010. After receiving her BS in Construction Science and Management from Kansas State University, Rebecca gained 5 years of project management experience working for Hensel Phelps Construction Company. She brings this project management experience to her current role with the Council.

## William Dowling



**Director, CDLE Employment  
& Training Division**

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William “Bill” Dowling began working as the Director of the Employment and Training Division at Colorado Department of Labor and Employment in June 2012. He has over 16 years of experience working in the Workforce and Economic Development arena. Previous to his relocation to Colorado to assume his current position, Bill served for seven years as the Director of Workforce Development for the City of Springfield, MO, as well as the Missouri Career Center Functional Leader and the Executive Director of the Ozark Region Workforce Investment Board.

## Elise Lowe-Vaughn



**Director, CDLE Workforce  
Development Programs**

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Elise Lowe-Vaughn currently serves as the Director of Workforce Development Programs for the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. Additionally, as the Director of Workforce Systems, Grants and Initiatives, she is responsible for administration and oversight of many of the State’s Federal Workforce Programs. These programs foci are the unemployed, dislocated, underemployed, and incumbent workers and services.





## **Colorado Workforce Development Council**

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